

No. 61

AN ACT

SB 825

Amending the act of June 2, 1915 (P.L. 736, No. 338), entitled, as amended, "An act defining the liability of an employer to pay damages for injuries received by an employe in the course of employment; establishing an elective schedule of compensation; providing procedure for the determination of liability and compensation thereunder; and prescribing penalties," creating an advisory council.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. The act of June 2, 1915 (P.L. 736, No. 338), known as "The Pennsylvania Workmen's Compensation Act," reenacted and amended June 21, 1939 (P.L. 520, No. 281), is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 447. (a) There is hereby created an advisory council, to be known as the Pennsylvania Workmen's Compensation Advisory Council, and to be composed of men and women with an equal number of employer, employe, and public representatives who may fairly be representative because of their vocation, employment, or affiliations. The council shall consist of a maximum of seven members including the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Industry, who shall be an ex officio member. The members of such council shall be appointed by the secretary within thirty days of the effective date of this amendatory act and shall serve a term of two years and until their successors have been appointed and qualified. The members of the council shall select one of their number to be chairman. Such council shall consider and advise the department upon all matters related to the administration of The Pennsylvania Workmen's Compensation Act and The Pennsylvania Occupational Disease Act. Such council may recommend to the secretary upon its own initiative such changes in the provisions of these acts and the administration thereof as it deems necessary and shall make periodic reports to the secretary regarding the performance of its duties and functions.

(b) In the performance of its duties, the council may hold hearings, receive testimony, solicit and receive comments and information from interested parties and the general public and shall have full access to information relating to the purpose of these acts. The council shall not have access to confidential medical information pertaining to individual claimants, but may develop statistical studies and surveys concerning the incidence of occupational injuries and diseases generally.

(c) The members of the advisory council shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to be reimbursed for all necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties. The secretary shall appoint an executive secretary and such other personnel as he shall deem

necessary to aid the council in the performance of its functions. The compensation of such employes and the amounts allowed them and to members of the council for traveling and other council expenses shall be deemed part of the expenses incurred in connection with the administration of The Pennsylvania Workmen's Compensation and The Pennsylvania Occupational Disease Acts.

Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

APPROVED—The 20th day of May, A. D. 1976.

MILTON J. SHAPP